

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims and listing of claims in the application.

1-72. Cancelled.

73. **(Currently amended)** A method of treating infertility in a female mammal comprising administering a pharmaceutical agent comprising a gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) agonist in an amount and for a time sufficient to support the luteal phase, wherein the GnRH agonist is administered to the female mammal beginning within the first three days after ovulation in the female mammal and for at least 7 days thereafter either

- i) after spontaneous ovulation in the female mammal, or
- ii) after stimulation of follicular growth and triggering of final follicular maturation followed by an ovulation in the female mammal [[with]] by administration of at least one additional agent,

such that infertility is treated in the female mammal.

74-75. (Cancelled)

76. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 73[[75]], wherein the additional agent administered to trigger triggering final follicular maturation and ovulation is a GnRH agonist which is the same as the GnRH agonist administered to support the luteal phase.

77. **(Currently amended)** The method according to claim 73[[75]], wherein the additional agent administered to trigger triggering final follicular maturation and ovulation is a GnRH agonist different from the GnRH agonist administered to support the luteal phase.

78. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the GnRH agonist is selected from the group consisting of a natural (native) GnRH, a recombinant GnRH, a

synthetic peptide agonist of GnRH, a non-peptide GnRH agonist, and a molecular chimera of GnRH.

79. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 78, wherein the synthetic peptide is selected from the group comprising buserelin(e), nafarelin(e), triptorelin(e), leuprorelin(e), goserelin(e), deslorelin(e) and histrelin(e), analogs thereof, and a combination of two or more of these agonists.

80. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 79, wherein the GnRH agonist is buserelin.

81. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the pharmaceutical agent which supports the luteal phase is administered after administration of a GnRH antagonist during the last days of follicular growth stimulation.

82. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the pharmaceutical agent which supports the luteal phase is administered in combination with another luteal support agent selected from the group consisting of natural progesterone, a progestagen, human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG), luteinizing hormone (LH), one or more isoforms of LH or of hCG, a peptidomimetic of LH or of hCG, an LH or an hCG analog with a modified pharmacokinetic, a phosphodiesterase inhibitor, a non-peptidic modulator of cyclicAMP, and a combination of two or more of these agents.

83. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the pharmaceutical agent which supports the luteal phase is administered in combination with a cytokine involved in embryo implantation mechanisms.

84. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 83, wherein the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of native Leukemia Inhibitory Factor (LIF), recombinant LIF, a peptidic or a non-peptidic agonist analog of LIF, and a combination thereof.

85. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the stimulation effected by the administration of the additional agent is followed, before ovulation, by an oocyte retrieval procedure, wherein at least one oocyte is obtained.

86. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 85, wherein the oocyte undergoes an *in vitro* maturation.

87. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 85, wherein the oocyte undergoes an *in vitro* fertilization.

88. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the stimulation effected by the administration of the additional agent is followed, after ovulation trigger, with an intra-uterine insemination (IUI).

89. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the GnRH agonist route of administration is selected from the group consisting of intra-nasal, oral, sub-cutaneous, intra-muscular, vaginal, rectal, transdermal, and pulmonary.

90. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the additional agent stimulating follicular growth is selected from the group comprising human menopausal gonadotrophins (hMG), urine-derived follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), recombinant FSH, one or several FSH isoforms, FSH mimetics, FSH analogs with a modified pharmacokinetic, selective estrogen receptors modulators (SERM), aromatases inhibitors, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, and a combination of two or more of these agents.

91. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 90, wherein the SERM is selected from the group consisting of clomiphene, tamoxifen, raloxifene, and a combination of two or more of these agents.

92. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 90, wherein the aromatase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of anastrozole, letrozole, exemestane, and a combination of two or more of these agents.

93. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the additional agent triggering final follicular maturation and ovulation is selected from the group consisting of hCG, LH, one or more isoforms of hCG or LH, hCG and LH peptido-mimetics, hCG and LH analogs with a modified pharmacokinetic, phosphodiesterase inhibitors, and a combination of two or more of these agents.

94. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 90, wherein the phosphodiesterase inhibitor is theophyline.

95. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the female mammal is a woman.

96. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 76, wherein the GnRH agonist is buserelin and is administered intra-nasally, at least once, at a dose of between 50 and 600 µg.

97. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 96, wherein buserelin is administered intra-nasally at a dose of 200 µg.

98. **(Currently amended)** A method of treating infertility in a female mammal comprising administering a pharmaceutical agent which comprises a GnRH agonist comprising buserelin, which supports luteal phase after stimulation of follicular growth and induction of final follicular maturation and ovulation with one or more additional agents, wherein said buserelin is administered intra-nasally within the first three days following ovulation trigger at a dose of between 50 and 400 µg and at a frequency between three times a day and once every

three days for a duration of 7 to 14 [[28]] days, such that infertility in the female mammal is treated.

99. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 98, wherein buserelin is administered on the first day following ovulation trigger.

100. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 98, wherein buserelin is administered at a dose of 100 µg.

101. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 98, wherein buserelin is administered for a duration of 14 days.

102. **(Withdrawn)** A kit for the treatment of infertility in a female mammal-comprising
a) a pharmaceutical agent comprising a GnRH agonist in an amount sufficient to support the luteal phase, formulated in a dosage and unit required for one cycle of treatment; and
b) packaging which indicates that the GnRH agonist is administered to the female mammal within the first three days after ovulation in the female mammal; either after a spontaneous ovulation or after stimulation of follicular growth and triggering of final follicular maturation followed by an ovulation.

103. **(Withdrawn)** The kit of claim 102, further comprising at least one additional agent which triggers final follicular maturation and ovulation.

104. **(New)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the administration of the GnRH agonist sufficient to support the luteal phase is for a duration of 7 to 14 days.

105. **(New)** The method according to claim 73, wherein the administration of the GnRH agonist sufficient to support the luteal phase is for a duration of up to 28 days in a female mammal that has conceived.

106. (New) A method of treating infertility in a female mammal comprising administering a pharmaceutical agent which comprises a GnRH agonist comprising buserelin, which supports luteal phase after stimulation of follicular growth and induction of final follicular maturation and ovulation with one or more additional agents, wherein said buserelin is administered intranasally within the first three days following ovulation trigger at a dose of between 50 and 400 µg and at a frequency between three times a day and once every three days for a duration of up to 28 days in a female mammal that has conceived, such that infertility in the female mammal is treated.